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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON TOBACCO REPORT**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, released the following statement in response to the report released by the Institute of Medicine, "Ending the Tobacco Problem."

"As the report makes clear, broad FDA authority over all aspects of the production and advertising of cigarettes and other tobacco products is indispensable for preventing tobacco-related addiction diseases, and death. It's disgraceful that year after year, Congress has bowed to the tobacco lobby and refused to act. Hopefully, the IOM's powerful call to action will be the irresistible force that finally compels the Senate and House to act."

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